

Sabbath Recorder

Remember the Sabbath



A Seventh Day Baptist Publication

May 2019

A wicker chair with a cushion is positioned in a field of tall, dry, golden-brown grass. The chair is dark brown with a woven texture. The cushion is a muted red or pinkish-brown color. The background is a soft, out-of-focus field of similar grass, extending to a light-colored horizon line. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

One
handful of
peaceful repose
Is better than
two fistfuls of
worried work

— Ecclesiastes 4:6 MSG

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Correction

We apologize that the graphic on page 7 of the April Sabbath Recorder was not properly credited to the artist. This work is by Allie Brosh, licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 United States License. <http://hyperboleandahalf.blogspot.com/2010/06/this-is-why-ill-never-be-adult.html>

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Patricia Cruzan
Editor

sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org

Contributing Editors:

Rob Appel, Katrina Goodrich, Barb Green,
Nicholas J. Kersten, Jane Mackintosh, Isaac Floyd/
Rachael Osborn, John J. Pethtel, Andy Samuels,
Sarina Villalpando

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WHO ARE SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS?

If you've never read *The Sabbath Recorder* before, you might be wondering who Seventh Day Baptists are.

Like other Baptists, we believe in:

- salvation by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.
- the Bible as the inspired word of God. The Bible is our authority for our faith and daily conduct.
- baptism of believers, by immersion, witnessing to our acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord.
- freedom of thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- the congregational form of church government. Every church member has the right to participate in the decision-making process of the church.

THE SEVENTH DAY

God commanded that the seventh day (Saturday) be kept holy. Jesus agreed by keeping it as a day of worship. We observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday) as God's Holy Day as an act of loving obedience – not as a means of salvation. Salvation is the free gift of God through Jesus our Lord. It is the joy of the Sabbath that makes SDBs a people with a difference.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Seventh Day Baptist Center

3120 Kennedy Road,
PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678.

Phone: (608) 752-5055; FAX: (608) 752-7711

E-mail: contact@seventhdaybaptist.org

SDB Website: www.seventhdaybaptist.org

Director of Communications

Jeremiah Owen

jowen@seventhdaybaptist.org

cell: (818)-468-9077

Editor of Sabbath Recorder:

sdbsr@seventhdaybaptist.org

SDBs ONLINE

<http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org>

<http://www.facebook.com/7thDayBaptists>

<http://www.twitter.com/7thDayBaptists>

<http://gplus.to/7thDayBaptists>

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<http://www.sabbathrecorder.com>

God's Personal Gift

God gave to me the Sabbath Day
To worship Him and to obey.
To praise His name and laugh and pray;
God gave to me the Sabbath Day.

Before there was a Jewish race,
God put the weekdays in their place.
The seventh day was His day of grace;
Before there was a Jewish race.

The seventh day He set aside
That He might thus be glorified
And in His Word I'm satisfied;
The seventh day He set aside.

Yes, God gave me a Sabbath rest;
A special day that he hath blest;
I keep it now at His request!
Yes, God gave me a Sabbath rest.

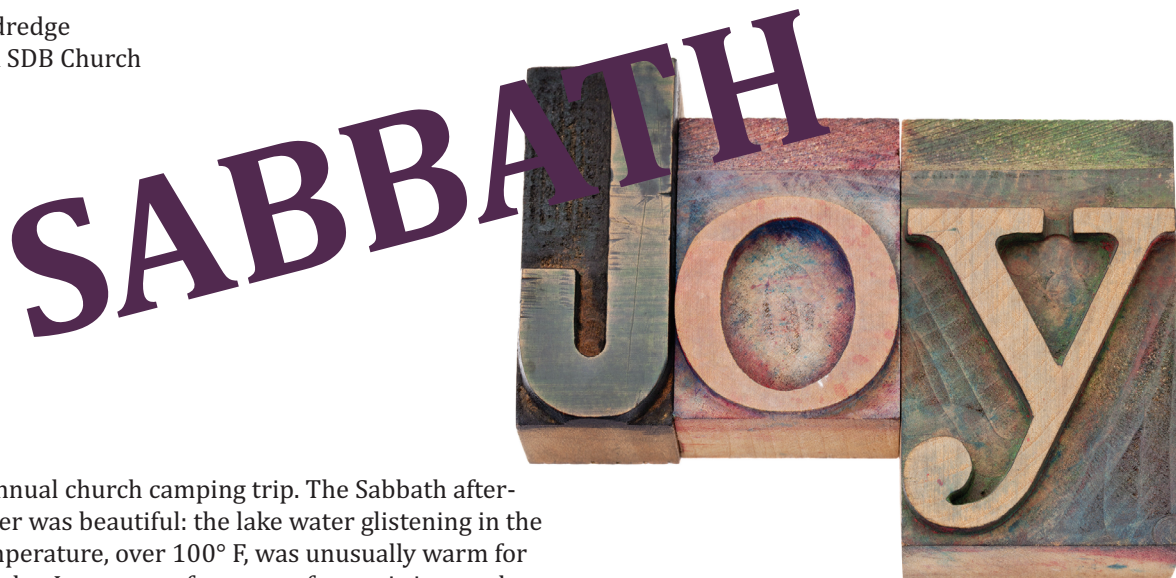
The Bible states it loud and clear!
I find it ringing in my ear;
It's plain enough for all to hear,
The Bible states it loud and clear.

It doesn't speak of Sunday peace
Nor does the Sabbath ever cease!
The Word of God in its release
It doesn't speak of Sunday peace.

The Bible is both Old and New
No matter what my point of view!
God blessed the seventh day it's true;
The Bible is both Old and New.

Yes, God gave me a Sabbath rest
A special day my Lord hath blest.
I keep it now at His request!
Yes, God gave a Sabbath rest.

—Owen H. Probasco
SDB Church Shiloh, NJ



It was the annual church camping trip. The Sabbath afternoon weather was beautiful: the lake water glistening in the sun; the temperature, over 100° F, was unusually warm for Northern Idaho. I was part of a group of men sitting on the beach discussing how God was working in our lives. Soon we became very uncomfortable and the discussion quickly changed to where we should move to cool off and continue our talk. About 25 feet from shore there was a ski dock. One of the group suggested we go to the dock where we could sit and dangle our feet in the water, keep cool, and continue our discussion. The group liked the suggestion and so we did.

That evening, just before vespers, the men who sat on the dock that afternoon were asked to come to the pastor's tent where the pastor asked why we were on the dock. After explaining our activity, the pastor disciplined the men for being poor examples to the youth. He said by swimming to the ski dock we were breaking the Sabbath. The pastor counselled us to be sure to pray for forgiveness of our sin and to apologize before the group at Vespers.

This is the event that caused me to question my Sabbath belief and to look to God for understanding of what Sabbath was really about. All my life I have been told Sabbath was to be a joy, something to look forward to. But where was this joy? The reality was Sabbath was a day of "Thou Shalt Nots." The focus was almost entirely on what you were not allowed to do. As I was seeking God for the real understanding of Sabbath, one word —joy— kept coming to my mind. Joy: as we were taught in Sabbath School, singing we had it deep down in our hearts. Joy: as we were taught "Jesus, Others, You." It finally became clear to me: Sabbath Joy is about Jesus, Others and You.



JESUS

Imagine being present in the beginning when God created the Heavens and Earth. How awesome it would be to see it, to experience His power. It would be exhausting just to watch. When the Lord finished His creation, He declared the Sabbath in Genesis 2:1-3, as a blessed day of rest. Do you think it was because He was tired from His labor? I don't think so. From the very beginning, God loved us His children. His desire is to be in communion with us, to be with us. He loves us so much He created a special day set

aside for us to be with Him in a special way all day long. What a blessing it is to know God loves me so much He has set aside Sabbath as that special day to be with Him.



OTHERS

If having a day set aside to be with the Lord is not enough, Sabbath with my brothers and sisters is a bonus. What a joy it is to meet together each Sabbath morning to lift up on high the name of Jesus. It's the joy of opening God's word together and learning how to be more like Him; the joy of fellowship and friendship through sharing a meal together. Very few people from my church live in the neighborhood where our building is located. For most of us, Sabbath is the only time we see each other. We have fellowship lunch every Sabbath and many stay there most of the day. God knew we would need this bond with our fellow Christians and instructed us not to neglect meeting together in Hebrews 10:24-25.



YOU

As our creator, God knew we are ambitious people and would need a special day to set aside our normal daily activities and focus on Him. I believe this is why God gave the one Sabbath "Thou Shalt Not." As part of the Ten Commandments, Exodus 20:8-11, God commands that neither we nor anyone in our household is to work. Unlike the Lord, we do need this physical rest. The older I get the more I come to love this Sabbath Joy. How wonderful to know each Friday evening I get 24 hours to set aside all the busyness of life and focus on God and family. The blessedness of this physical rest prepares us to face the challenges of the new week.

I must admit it was a real shock the day the pastor called us men on the carpet for "breaking the Sabbath." However, I praise God for that day. It caused me to set aside all I was taught by man and focus on God's Sabbath Joy. I pray everyone looks forward to Sabbath each week as a special day to be with Jesus, Others and You. SR

*“A soul tired from the efforts of life,
needs a Sabbath, a refuge
that gives meaning to existence.”*

El alma cansada de los afanes de la vida, necesita un Sabbath, un refugio que de sentido a su existencia. Una torre fuerte, donde podamos ir y descansar de nuestros miedos y ansiedades.

Descansar de las preocupaciones cotidianas que marchitan el espíritu. Necesitamos un oasis espiritual, donde encontremos reposo divino, para la inquietud humana. En su misericordia Dios estableció un reposo, físico, espiritual y emocional. Un reposo que está al alcance de todos, sin importar nuestra condición social y económica, que va más allá de nuestro origen étnico o escolaridad. Es gratuito, todo aquel lo puede tener. Es el Sabbath semanal que estableció desde la creación del mundo, su Palabra dice: Y acabó Dios en el día séptimo la obra que hizo; y reposó el día séptimo de toda la obra que hizo. Y bendijo Dios al día séptimo, y lo santificó, porque en él reposó de toda la obra que había hecho en la creación. Génesis 2:2-3. El Sabbath, es un día de renovación, de restauración, es un tiempo para recordar que Dios es nuestro creador, y que todo el universo es obra de sus manos. Cuando el ser humano recobra su origen, puede vivir sin temor y sin angustia, puede esperar el futuro sin ansiedad, porque está seguro de su pasado.

El Sabbath es un prototipo de Cristo, significa que descansamos de nuestras obras para ser justificados y confiamos en las obras de Cristo para ser justificados. El Sabbath no sólo es la oportunidad del ser humano de recordar que Dios el creador sino también la oportunidad de recordar que Cristo es nuestro Salvador. Es el reposo divino para la inquietud humana. Jesús dijo: “Venid a mí todos los que estáis trabajados y cargados, y yo os haré descansar. S. Mateo 11:28 Jesús es el verdadero reposo, El es único que puede dar sentido y paz a nuestra existencia, El propósito del Sabbath es señalar al Cordero Divino como el verdadero reposo, para el alma cansada, es recordarnos que en Cristo tenemos total descanso. Es un recordatorio de que en Cristo cesan nuestros esfuerzos para ser salvos, y de que sólo en Jesús hay verdadera paz y tranquilidad. En Jesús podemos descansar plenamente de nuestras cotidianas preocupaciones, de nuestros miedos y aflicciones, El Sabbath es la invitación que Dios nos hace para recordarle a El como Creador y Salvador. Disfrutemos pues felices del descanso que Dios ha provisto para la humanidad. SR

— *Paulino Márquez,*
Redemption Evangelical Fellowship
Riverside, CA

I would like to share with you this thought:

Let's not miss the now by worrying about the next.

This thought was prompted by my reading of James Bryan Smith's book *"The Good and Beautiful God."* One of the truths he shares is the idea of "hurry sickness," which he labels as "the number one spiritual illness of our day." The simple, and sad, truth is that we are so busy focusing on all the things we **need** to be doing, that we miss out on what we **are** doing. We're not fully present in each moment, so we're not fully experiencing life, which is a series of moments.

Smith puts it like this: *"When hurried, we cannot experience life at its fullest; nor can we come into contact with our true selves, our real feelings. And even more important, we outrun God. When we slow down we allow ourselves to be found — found by life and found by God. When we practice slowing down, we are moving into the rhythm of God."*

Of course Jesus knows all about hurry sickness, because He knows all about humans. Perhaps that's why He said to His followers, *"Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."* (Matthew 6:34)

Do you resonate with this idea of hurry sickness?
Are you sick of missing the now, because you're worrying about the next?

One thing we can do in our process of eliminating hurry is to reduce our number of activities. Looking at your calendar for the next five days, is there one thing you can safely eliminate? After eliminating that one thing, don't replace it with **something** else. Replace it with some **One** else.

Read your favorite chapter of scripture ten times through in one sitting — listen to what God is saying to you. Take a walk in God's gorgeous creation — see what He's showing you. Press "play" on your favorite worship music — hear what He's singing to you. Be fully present with God, and He will be fully present with you.

The Hurry Sickness

"You are always living in this moment: will you live it present or absent?"

(quote from Richard Bailey and Joseph Carlson)

Are you sick of missing the now because you're worrying about the next?

The idea of "hurry sickness," as described in James Bryan Smith's book *"The Good and Beautiful God,"* is that we are so busy focusing on all the things we **need** to be doing, we miss out on what we **are** doing. We're not fully present in each moment, so we're not fully experiencing life, which is a series of moments. Does this describe you? Are you sick of missing the **now** because you're worrying about the **next**?

Smith said that, *"When we slow down we allow ourselves to be found, found by life and found by God."* How can we do this? How can we start slowing down, start eliminating hurry from our daily lives? We've already talked about decreasing the quantity of our activities. Now let's talk about increasing the quality of our activities.

I'm not talking about replacing bad activities with good activities. After all, how often have you thought to yourself, "Instead of embezzling money from my boss, today I'll be a faithful employee"? I'm talking about replacing good activities with great activities. Good activities are fun, entertaining, distracting. Great activities are informative, impacting, inspiring. Good activities seem to distract us from reality, whereas great activities seem to drive us deeper into reality. We tend to engage in so many good

activities that we don't have time for great activities. How can we replace the good with the great?

A better question might be this: How can we **transform** the good into the great? For example, watching a ball game on TV is a good activity. It helps us to relax (unless we're in a fantasy league!) to recover from the stresses of the day. However, watching a ball game on TV **with a friend** is a great activity. Not only does it help us to recover from the stresses of the day, it also helps us to work through those stresses as we talk about our day with our friend. Watching a game alone might be fun, but watching with a friend might be fulfilling. There's nothing wrong with fun, but why settle for fun when we can be fulfilled?

This is just one example of transforming the good into the great. Look at your own list of daily activities, and see which good ones you can transform into great ones. When we're being fulfilled, we're more likely to live in the **now**, instead of hurrying and worrying about the **next**. SR

Sharing the journey,
Pastor Scott Hausrath
SDB Church, North Loup, NE

Sabbath School Teacher of the Year

Each year the SDB Christian Education Council solicits nominees for the **Sabbath School Teacher of the Year**. This year we are changing the guidelines to include more opportunities for other leaders. Any member church (or branch church) of the General Conference may nominate a Sabbath school teacher, Bible study leader, or small group leader.

The CEC encourages all churches to honor someone for their work in the Christian Education ministries of the local church.

Selection for this award shall be based on the following criteria:

The Sabbath School Teacher of the Year shall:

- exhibit the qualities of faith and teaching found in the life and teachings of Christ;
- serve as a Sabbath school teacher, Bible study leader or small group leader
- be a member of the nominating church.

Other Christian Education service shall contribute to a fuller appreciation of the nominee's Christian service.

The Christian Education Council selects a person from those nominated to be honored at General Conference. This person receives a certificate of award and a crystal apple.

The deadline for nominations for this award for the 2018-2019 Conference year is May 31, 2019. The nominations form can be downloaded at the link below. Upon completion of the nomination form, it should be sent to Peggy Chroniger either by e-mail (chroniger@gmail.com) or by postal mail (5940 St Rt 21, Alfred Station, NY 14803). **Nominations sent by postal mail must be postmarked by May 31 to be accepted.** SR

Sabbath School Teacher of the Year Nomination Form
(fillable PDF)

Constrained by Conscience: Alexander Campbell's Sabbath Conviction

This *Recorder* reprint is focused on the conflicts between Sabbath convictions and our working lives. I suspect few topics strike such a personal nerve with the *Recorder's* readers. Rare indeed is the SDB who has not had to make a hard decision about a job or activity because it falls on the Sabbath. These conflicts are contemporary concerns for us. But despite that fact, they aren't just contemporary concerns—the Sabbath has been a call to conscience for hundreds of years. Our predecessors in these struggles can inspire us to persevere and to thrive.

One poignant story which the Historical Society archives details is that of Alexander Campbell (1801-1888). Campbell was a prominent Seventh Day Baptist in the middle part of the 1800s, and tremendously influential in our evangelistic outreach on the American frontier and in the creation of SDB educational institutions like Alfred University. But before he found his place among Seventh Day Baptists, Campbell was a Presbyterian with a conviction problem.

In a booklet he wrote years later, Campbell described the circumstances which surrounded his eventual arrival among SDBs. At age 22, he heard SDB missionary Russell Wells speak and sing. It was the first time he heard about Sabbath, and the experience led him on an exploration of Sunday and the Sabbath. This exploration proved to be painful for Campbell, as he struggled against the weight of the Scriptures and his own desire to honor what he found there, though he ultimately decided to respond to his convictions and keep the Sabbath. This decision, however, led him to difficulties in his working life, as he describes:

Should I change my practices according to my convictions as it then seemed to me I must and sacrifice all my earthly interests, hopes and prospects? I was young and just beginning life. I was running a small store of dry goods and groceries, had six young men in my employ and not a Sabbath keeper in the neighborhood. What shall I, what can I do?

After a period of indecision about how to proceed, Campbell ultimately decided to close his store on the Sabbath. Having made the decision, he fully expected his six employees to leave and find other work. Addressing them on the topic, Campbell recounts the conversation:

I made it my first business to call them together...and talked the matter over with them, giving them a brief account of my experience and trials. As I should do no more work myself on Sabbath, nor allow any work to be done for me...I supposed it would be their choice to leave me, and of course I could not object.

At this point, however, the conversation took an interesting turn:

One of these young men by this time was all broken down and weeping said, "I will not leave you, I will stand by you and keep the day with you." Then another said the same until all five of the number pledged themselves to stand by me and keep the Sabbath with me.

Campbell reports that all six of his coworkers knew he was struggling, but didn't know what about. Having shared his convictions, he gave his coworkers an opportunity to respond as well. As a result of this struggle with Sabbath convictions in the workplace, several people in the area began keeping Sabbath as well.

So often, we are afraid to share our convictions in the marketplace for fear of the results, but it may be the case that God wants to use us where we are, not only to witness to the Sabbath, but to the entire Bible and the God revealed there in Christ. The challenge to us is to carefully consider how our Sabbath convictions can be used to magnify God in our workplaces, whether we meet with acceptance or persecution.

*The challenge to us is to
carefully consider how
our Sabbath convictions
can be used to magnify God
in our workplaces...*

Reprinted from the Sabbath Recorder, May 2011.



Council
on History

Rev. Nicholas J. Kersten
Director of Education
and History

WHAT'S YOUR MISSION?

Here I am today, having begun a new journey in my life. In my own mind and heart, it is still sinking in and being processed that I am serving as the newly appointed Chief Executive Director of the SDB Missionary Society. Seventh Day Baptists have been a meaningful part of my life for the entire time that I've been out of my mother's womb—and even before. So, my new stewardship with this group of God's people is especially thrilling.

Reflecting on the evolution of my life's journey and mission is interesting and instructive. Take this abbreviated version of the voyage with me. From growing up in the city of Kingston, Jamaica and embracing my early spiritual nurturing by Godly and loving parents, as well as the Mountain View SDB church community, like the Biblical Samuel, I learned to recognize the voice of the Lord. At 11 years of age, I answered my first spiritual call and placed my faith in Jesus Christ for personal salvation. Then about three years later, in the summer of 1976, at our SDB youth camp at Maiden Hall, in a dramatic worship experience, I answered another call from the Lord, and pledged with my teenage heart to go wherever the Lord wanted me to go. I don't have the space in this article to chronicle the details of that encounter, so ask me about it sometime, and I will be very happy to give you the ball-by-ball commentary.

Six years after that, I found myself on a plane for the first time, heading to New York City to begin a new chapter of life, employed by the government of Jamaica, and assigned to the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations. I had the privilege then of living and working in a wonderfully diverse international community, where people from almost every nation of the world were part of my neighborhood. Another call was answered then, embarking on another mission.

Early in the New York City leg of the journey, I answered the call to take on a wife, and Kay has been by my side ever since. She partnered with me to say yes to the mission of becoming parents, and liked the maiden voyage so much, that she went back a second time. We are truly blessed with our two daughters, our son-in-law, and our two grandchildren.

In 1988, like Abraham, we responded to the call to go to a new city and a new assignment. Unlike Abraham, we knew the name and location of the city. It was Miami, FL. And the assignment was a pastoral one. Although since then, in the will of the Lord, I have had many submissions, serving as pastor of the Miami SDB Church has been my primary mission—for just short of 31 years. Until now.



The mission continues in a wider context. I feel very blessed to have the privilege of this particular mission: to humbly oversee, direct, and equip others for God's mission among Seventh Day Baptists the world over. At present that includes almost 50 countries. The mission of my continued role as General Secretary of the SDB World Federation has also uniquely prepared me for this new calling. I am deeply grateful to the Missionary Society Board of Managers for giving me the honor of involvement in kingdom work in this way, and I look forward to partnering with many others in this walk.


There are three Scripture passages which undergird and anchor me as I step out into this new commission.

Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

2 Corinthians 4:7 - But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Luke 12:48 - From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

What about you? Have you heard God's voice; sensed His call; felt His nudge? Just as He does for me, He has a mission for you. And you will not be at peace until you're moving in that direction. The opportunities are endless, the assignments countless. The fields are ripe for harvest. Laborers are needed. Is that you? I have shared a little about my mission. What's yours?

I very humbly accept this noble mission. At your service, Lord. At your service, Seventh Day Baptists. 



FOCUS on Missions

By Andy Samuels
Chief Executive Director
SDB Missionary Society

I HAVE A DREAM...

On August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave a speech where he was heard saying, "I have a dream." What followed this speech was a vision that changed a people and changed a nation. That famous speech is a dramatic example of the power that can be generated by communicating a compelling vision for the future.

A clear vision is an essential component of an organization for them to be effective in their united tasks. So, what is a vision and how do Seventh Day Baptists get one?

A vision is a statement about what we want to become. It should form an alliance with all the members and help them feel unity, excitement, and a part of a grander cause. A vision should stretch our Conference's capabilities and give shape and direction to our future ministries. A vision is a guiding image of success formed in terms of contributing to the total cause. It is a description in words that conjures up a similar picture for each member of the Conference of the finished work we can accomplish together. A vision should require the Conference's members to stretch their collective expectations, aspirations and performance.

HOW A VISION IS USED

A vision is an important guide to implementing new ministries. It is used as a measuring stick for future work together. Any new ministry would need to follow the guidelines of the vision of the Conference. Our mission statement answers the question: Why does our organization exist? *Our mission is to equip our churches to actively advance God's Kingdom.* However, a vision is more encompassing. It answers the question, "What will success look like five years and ten years from now?" It is this unified image of a goal that really motivates us to pursue this work together. What is our Focus?



By Rob Appel
Executive Director

WHAT WE DO

Our focus is to develop and support new and existing leaders who will work through healthy churches. Leaders include pastors, as well as people who have served, are serving, or desire to serve in local churches.

HOW WE DO THINGS AND HOW WE WANT TO BE

Our core values include being Bible- and Spirit-led. Our membership is made up of local churches who have the freedom and responsibility to worship, educate and share the Gospel. We are a people who lovingly observe the 7th day Sabbath. And we exist because our forefathers were faithful in preserving our unique heritage.

We are striving to be compassionate in our Biblical living. We endeavor to be generous in our giving. We desire to invite and include people into our family. We attempt to be great stewards of all that God has given us. And we are an organization that is volunteer-focused.

I HAVE A DREAM

Even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the Seventh Day Baptist values.

I have a dream that one day this Conference will rise up.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together."

This is our hope, and this is the faith of the Seventh Day Baptist people. With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together and to struggle together...knowing that we will be doing God's work!

I have a *dream!* SR

SDB GENERAL CONFERENCE USA & CANADA CONFERENCE SESSIONS DISPLAYS POLICY

Displays are an extension of the ministries of the SDB General Conference USA & Canada. The displays are used to inform, celebrate, and support the Conference and its mission.

Display space is limited at every conference session based upon size and location of the venue used. Therefore, priority will be given based upon the following categories of display, with Category 1 being the highest priority:

- **Category 1:** This category includes displays related to the councils, allied societies, or other ministries of the SDB General Conference USA & Canada. There will be no charge for these displays.
- **Category 2:** This category includes member churches of the SDB General Conference USA & Canada. There will be a fee of \$50 for a display in this category.
- **Category 3:** This category includes churches and groups identifying as Seventh Day Baptist. There will be a fee of \$100 for a display in this category.
- **Category 4:** This category includes vendors or other ministries that support or encourage the mission of the SDB General Conference USA & Canada. There will be a fee of \$150 for a display in this category.

Additional Charges: If the display is selling products, there shall be an extra \$25 charge. If the display needs electricity, there shall be an extra \$25 charge. Displays in Category 1 are exempt from these charges.

There shall be no guaranteed location for any display.

Internet and electricity—may or—may not be available for displays and availability shall be on a priority and then first come, first served basis.

1. Application for a display must be submitted no later than **May 15** of each year, or the Monday following the 15th if it falls on a weekend. Acceptance of your display will not be confirmed until after May 15.
2. A separate request must be submitted for each display table.
3. Tables will be at least six feet long. You will be responsible for providing a tablecloth and skirt for your display. (These are required.) One chair can be provided per display upon request.
4. **Nothing** may be attached permanently to any walls or to the display table. Storage may only be provided underneath the display table.
5. No audio equipment or sound amplification of any kind is permitted. Videos without sound may be shown as long as the monitor/television rests on the display table.
6. We prefer and recommend electronic distribution of information instead of printed matter. Use of QR codes, web addresses, or SDB LINK is recommended.

If you must ship materials for your display, you must contact the Executive Director to obtain the proper address. You will be responsible for the costs of shipping your display.

No display may be set up at the venue prior to the opening Sunday of the conference sessions. All displays must be removed from the venue by 10 am on the closing Sunday of the conference sessions.

All displays that have items for purchase shall remove or cover the items from 6 pm Friday until 6 pm Saturday.

All displays must be approved by the General Council and/or Executive Director.

Waivers to this policy may be requested from the General Council and/or Executive Director.

For more information contact

Robert Appel, Executive Director
robappel@seventhdaybaptist.org
Phone: (608) 752-5055

Expected Conduct at General Conference

*This must be read, then noted
online or at the end of the paper form on p.16*

We desire to maintain our witness for Christ. Part of this witness is our ability to live as a community that recognizes the responsibility to think of others. One such responsibility is a demonstration of respect for those who need a good night's sleep. We also want to spare our people from social pressures that might encourage inappropriate activity.

1. Local rules of the school and facility are binding on all who attend Conference unless changed by the Host Committee or the General Council.

2. All socializing between males and females (except husband and wife) shall be limited to public areas, or personal rooms (except during quiet hours) in which the doors are completely open.

3. Quiet hours are from 12 midnight to 6 a.m. each night of Conference. During quiet hours no excessive noise will be permitted. No talking will be allowed in hallways, and no music (such as instrumental, vocal, or from a stereo) will be permitted except where used with personal headphones. Quiet talking will be permitted in lounges, or in personal rooms with the doors closed (same gender only and spouses).

4. A Disciplinary Council shall be established before Conference convenes.

5. The Disciplinary Council shall meet at the call of the chairman to deal with infractions of these conduct guidelines. Discussion shall be confidential and shall include input from the person(s) involved.

- A first offense of the rules will result in a written notice of warning. In the case of a youth being in violation, copies of the warning shall be delivered to both the youth and sponsor.

- A second offense of the rules will require that a violator (and sponsor, if appropriate) meet with the Disciplinary Council to work out an agreement of what type of service or restitution would be an appropriate consequence for the violation. In the case of youth offenders, the sponsor will also monitor the service of the youth.

- A third offense is punishable by a fine of \$50. In the case of a youth offender who is unable to pay, the youth's sponsor will be responsible for the fine.

- If the offense warrants, violators will be sent home at their own expense (or the sponsor's expense in the case of a youth).

6. All unmarried young people under 18 years of age will need to have their own parents, or a sponsor over 25 years of age, attend the Conference. ALL YOUNG PEOPLE will be assigned to rooms on the same floor of the same dorm as their sponsors.

7. Parents or sponsors assume full responsibility for the conduct and discipline of the young people whose sponsorship they accept. Such responsibility does not extend to direct supervision when youth are engaged in a scheduled Conference activity.

*PLEASE SIGN this understanding on the online form
or on p. 16 of the paper form in this issue.*

2019 Conference

July 28 – August 3

Registration Instructions

Lancaster Bible College

901 Eden Road
Lancaster, PA 17601
(717) 560-8219

Registrar:

Sandy Layton
(609)364-2071
registrar@seventhdaybaptist.org

Forms mailed to:

Sandy Layton
177 Old Cohansey Road
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

• **ONLINE REGISTRATION ends June 30!**

Go to www.seventhdaybaptist.org to register on-line. You may pay now by sending a check or using your **CREDIT CARD**. You may also use your credit card at registration on campus. This speeds up your check-in process on arrival!

• **ON-CAMPUS REGISTRATION**—Follow the signs to the lobby of **Good Shepherd Chapel** on Sunday, July 28, starting at 11 a.m. to late evening. Be prepared to wait if you did not pre-register and pay ahead of time.

• **REGISTRATION**— Mon.-Thur. is 9 a.m. to noon, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. & after the evening service to 10 p.m.; Fri. is 9 a.m. to noon, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. & after the evening service to 10 p.m.; Sabbath Day is 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. and at the lunch line. Please pay with cash on Sabbath at the cafeteria.

• **If you are coming just for Sabbath, August 3, please pre-register.**

All attendees must register to eat at the cafeteria.

• **ABOUT THE FORM**— One form per family. (1) Please list **ALL NAMES** as you want them to appear on the official name tags, last name first. Ages must be given for those under 18, as well as last school grade completed as of June 2019. **First-time Conference attendees**, please identify yourself. There is no charge for children 0-3 years. Please indicate if you plan to use the **NURSERY**. **ALL NAMES** must be listed to ensure that everyone is covered by our liability insurance.

• **SPECIAL REQUESTS**—e.g., if need handicapped access; or are willing to be in “higher tolerance” dorm.

(2a) & (2b) FULL WEEK RATES:

On Campus or Off Campus (3a) & (3b) **PARTIAL WEEK RATE:** Is for those attending four days or less. If you attend more than four days, you will be charged the Full Week Rate. For Partial Week Rates, please indicate the days you are attending.

• **REGISTRATION FOR ALL**—Everyone

attending (ages 4 & up), is required to pay the registration fee. It covers facilities, materials, and liability insurance of Conference activities.

• **HOUSING**—On-Campus housing will be at a premium! Those staying the FULL week of Conference will be given first consideration for a bed. All beds are single beds.

• **Two children (ages 12 and under) can sleep on the floor in Petersen Hall only** at no charge if there is a paying adult family member for each child.

Adults (ages 13 and up) may sleep on the floor at a reduced rate; one adult on the floor per two adults paid.

All dorms are air-conditioned and have free washers.

• **Suites** feature four rooms, 2 beds per room. There are two full bathrooms per suite and one lounge area.

• **Dorms** have two beds per room. There are shared bathrooms for each wing of the dorm hall.

• **LINENS**—**The college does not supply linens. The Host Committee will provide at a cost the sheets, pillow and pillowcase, a light blanket and a towel and washcloth if needed. You may bring your own linens if you choose to do so. YOU HAVE TO PRE-REGISTER IN ORDER TO ENSURE YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR LINENS! After Conference you can leave the items with the host committee if you would like. They will be washed and donated to a shelter.**

• **KEYS**—There will be a \$50 lost key charge.

• There are **elevators** in the dorms and the conference buildings.

• **All unmarried young people under the age of 18**, if not attending with a parent, must have a sponsor over 25 years of age in attendance at the Conference sessions. The sponsor must be listed on the Registration form; **young people will be assigned to same dorm and close to the sponsor.**

• **MEALS**—Meal tickets for the entire week include supper Sunday, July 29, through breakfast Sunday, August 4.

We have cancelled the option of “Lunch & Supper” meal tickets due to the very limited use over the past three years.

Children ages 3 & under are free. Individual meals may be purchased in the meal line at the cafeteria. **HOWEVER, you must be pre-registered in order to eat lunch in the cafeteria on Sabbath Day.**

(5) & (6) **Banquet Tickets**—Please register for Banquets so we know how many to plan for. **Indicate if you prefer vegetarian or gluten-free.**

(7) **YOUTH-CON & ACTIVITIES**—Youth (finished 9th–12th grade) must sign up for youth events held Sunday thru Friday lunch. There is a fee per youth for Youth-Con that covers additional cost associated with this special track plus a special T-Shirt.

(8) **TRANSPORTATION**—Attendees flying in will be picked up only at the Harrisburg (HIA) Airport. Please indicate arrival and departure times by pre-registering by **June 30**. There is a FEE of \$5.00 each way for pick-ups from the airport.

• **NOTE**—**NO RV spaces** on campus.

• **NURSERY SERVICES**—Will be in the Good Shepherd Chapel for children 3 years old and younger. Hours will be posted. **Parents using the nursery are asked to help for half a day** sometime during the week.

• **INTERNET ACCESS**—Guest Wi-Fi is available throughout the campus.

• **NO SMOKING OR ALCOHOL** allowed on campus.

• **OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING**—Please indicate a phone number (cell or other) where you can be reached.

• **ALL ATTENDEES** should read and sign the *Expected Conduct Statement* on p. 13. Those registering online will mark a box indicating that they have read it and agree to abide by it.

2019 SDB Conference Registration — Lancaster Bible College—Lancaster, PA — July 28 – August 3 (Information for your name tag)

(1) NAME:	LAST	FIRST	Gender	Grade	Age	Need Nursery	1st	SDB CHURCH (or Organization representing)	CITY/STATE if different from below
									Need more room? Use another sheet
Child's School Grade completed <input type="checkbox"/> Mark if your first Conference <input type="checkbox"/>									

Address _____ E-mail _____ Phone () _____

Spec. Requests (**Higher tolerance dorm**); _____ Name of Sponsor (All youth under 18) _____

Fees: Adults (Age 12 and over); Children (Ages 4-11); [Children, 3 and under, FREE—please list ALL names above]

STAYING ON CAMPUS FULL WEEK RATE (2a)

	How many?	Rate	Amount
• Adults (age 12 and up) Registration & Bed			
All Meals	x	\$435	=
No Meals	x	\$295	=
• Children (age 4-11) Registration & Bed			
All Meals	x	\$385	=
No Meals	x	\$295	=
• Children (age 4-11 on floor) [must have 1 adult family member per child]			
All Meals	x	\$190	=
No Meals	x	\$155	=
• Children (3 and under)	x	FREE	=

TOTAL SECTION (2a)

• (3) Linens			
Sheets and Pillowcase	x	\$ 15	=
Blanket	x	\$ 9	=
Pillow	x	\$ 6	=
Towel & Washcloth	x	\$ 4	=
Total (9)			

STAYING ON CAMPUS PARTIAL WEEK RATE (2b)

	How many?	Rate	Amount
• Adults (age 12 and up) Registration & Bed			
All Meals	x	\$275	=
No Meals	x	\$180	=
• Children (age 4-11) Registration & Bed			
All Meals	x	\$240	=
No Meals	x	\$170	=
• Children (age 4-11) SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR			
All Meals	x	\$190	=
No Meals	x	\$100	=
• Children (3 and under)	x	\$ 0	=

TOTAL SECTION (2b)

OFF CAMPUS FULL WEEK RATE (4a)

	<u>How many?</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>
•Adults (age 12 and up) Full Week, Registration			
All Meals	x	\$295	=
No Meals	x	\$155	=
•Children (age 4-11)			
All Meals	x	\$245	=
No Meals	x	\$155	=
•Children (3 and under)	x	FREE	
TOTAL (4a)			

OFF CAMPUS PARTIAL WEEK RATE (4b)

4 days or less

	<u>How many?</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>
•Adults (age 12 and up)			
All Meals	x	\$195	=
[Circle full days you will be on campus: S M T W Th F Sa]			
No Meals	x	\$100	=
[Circle full days you will be on campus: S M T W Th F Sa]			
•Children (age 4-11)			
All Meals	x	\$165	=
[Circle full days you will be on campus: S M T W Th F Sa]			
No Meals	x	\$100	=
[Circle full days you will be on campus: S M T W Th F Sa]			
•Children (3 and under)			FREE
TOTAL (4b)			

(3c) Off-campus housing: _____ Phone: _____

Registration, Housing, Linens & Meals (Sections 2-6) = _____

Youth Conference T-Shirt (Section 7) = _____

Transportation (Section 8) = _____

TOTAL = _____

Less amount prepaid = _____

Balance Due = _____

Checks made out to: "SDB Host Committee"

Send form to: **Sandy Layton**

177 Old Cohansey Road

Bridgeton, NJ 08302

(registrar@seventhdaybaptist.org) (609) 364-2071

EXTRAS

(4) SABBATH DAY ONLY + LUNCH	<u>How many?</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>
•Adults (age 12 and up)	x	\$15	=
•Children (age 4-11)	x	\$10	=
•Children (3 and under)			FREE
TOTAL (4)			
(5) WOMEN'S BANQUET	x	\$30	TOTAL (5) _____
BANQUET	# of Vegetarian meals	# of Gluten-free meals	
Held <u>off campus</u> at the "The Barn at Stoner Commons"			
(6) YOUTH	_____ x \$7.00 w/meal ticket	_____ x \$17.00 w/out ticket	TOTAL (6) _____
(7) YOUTH CON T-SHIRT	<u>How many?</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Size _____	x	\$25	TOTAL (7) _____
(8) TRANSPORTATION	needed between Harrisburg Airport and the campus		
Arrive: Air # _____ Time: _____ AM / PM	Depart: Air _____ AM / PM		
Pick-up needs: One way _____ x \$ 5/person = _____	Round trip _____ x \$10/person = _____	TOTAL (8) _____	

All attendees MUST be registered or listed! Please read the "Expected Conduct" statement on page 13 and sign the statement at the bottom of the next page. Register on-line at www.seventhdaybaptist.org

EXPECTED CONDUCT (Read Page 13)

I/we, the undersigned, have read and do understand the "Expected Conduct at General Conference."

Signed _____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

As the parent of _____, I further agree that my child is legally responsible to the undersigned sponsor, and that said sponsor may also make any necessary decisions regarding medical services.

Parent _____ Date: _____

Sponsor _____ Date: _____

Youth _____ Date: _____

Greetings from the 2019 Conference Host Committee!

*We are looking forward to seeing you at
Lancaster Bible College in July.*

As we work on the final arrangements for this year's Conference we have some additional information that we want to pass on to you.

1: This year one of the dorms that we will be using has five wings. Each wing will house only male or female guests. In order to accommodate as many attendees as possible we will be housing some of the youth in some of those wings. We are in need of a few male and female adults who will be willing to stay in one of these wings with the youth. If you are willing to be a **Wing Parent** please let Sandy Layton (*see below*) know. The other wings will be used for single male and single female attendees.

2: If you are willing to help in the Nursery please contact Charlotte Chroniger (*see below*).

3: We were able to reserve some **Sight & Sound** tickets to see the production of "JESUS"...they are still available. We must return all remaining tickets before June 15th. If you are interested in going to see "**JESUS**" at **Sight & Sound** on the Thursday of Conference, please contact Steve (*see below*) and then send your payment before June 15th made out to the Shiloh SDB Church, C/O 385 Jericho Rd. Bridgeton, NJ 08302.
Adult: \$56.25; and Children 3-12: \$24.75.

4: If you are planning on arriving in the area early or staying after there are plenty of sights to see. In the Lancaster area, you can tour the **Ephrata Cloister** or ride on the steam-powered **Strasburg Railroad**. If you have young children, you can spend the day at **Dutch Wonderland**, an amusement park for kids. In nearby Hershey, you can spend the day at **Hershey Park**, an amusement park, or travel to **Gettysburg** and tour the **Battlefield**. It is an hour and half drive to Philadelphia where you can see the **Liberty Bell** or tour the **Constitution Center**.

If you have any questions or if we can be of any help please contact us.

Chairman:

Steve Moncrief856 506 5715sdmoncrief@yahoo.com

Registrar:

Sandy Layton609 364 2071slayton16@aol.com

Transportation:

Ward / Debbie Bond ..856 498 9711.....wdbond@rocketmail.com

Nursery:

Charlotte Chroniger..856 455 0488pdlchron@yahoo.com

Exhibits:

Bethany Lawton609 364 2904bethany.m.lawton@gmail.com

Team Members Requested!



Would you like to be part of a team that has a lasting impact on the future of Seventh Day Baptists?

We are currently seeking enthusiastic,
nurturing and loving brothers and sisters to support
Children's Conference for 2019
in Lancaster, PA.

Please consider joining this teaching, singing, dancing,
loving and laughing group by spending your mornings
making a difference in the lives of the children (ages 4 –
sixth grade) in our denomination.

Please contact Emily Watt Arnold
at 301-393-6294 or ew9@hood.edu
if you are interested in working
with this amazing program.

YOUTH CON 2019!

Plan NOW to be there. See pages 13-16 for
Registration information and expenses. There is
an additional fee of \$25 for a Youth Con t-shirt!
As you register, please remember to include the
shirt sizes of the registrants!

SEE YOU THERE!

If you have questions about Conference
activities for those under the age of 18,
please contact Director of Education &
History Nick Kersten for more information!

He Knows the Way

Job 23:10

Everyone always seems to say, *“It will never happen to me.”* If you have not said this, it has crossed your mind almost surely at some point when you have read the news. Because I am a planner, I sometimes feel as though I can control what happens in my life and my *“Nevers”* will always be *“Nevers.”* My plans were majorly disrupted my eighth grade year when I was taken to the ER at the Children’s Hospital in Pittsburgh.

A couple weeks before, I began to notice that I was becoming stiff and fatigued. I went through a time when I questioned my belief. I was mad at God. I didn’t feel like He was with me and often felt like my life was meaningless and empty. I wanted the empty feeling in my heart to go away, so I started asking questions. With the help of my church family and parents I realized and knew in my heart that God loved me and I loved Him. I believe God helped me come to this realization at an earlier age to prepare me for what lay ahead.

During the month of September it was time to practice archery in gym class. I looked forward to this because I had practiced with the bow and arrow with my dad the summer before. But when the time came for me to shoot at the target, I couldn’t pull the string all the way back. My arms shook and they wouldn’t stretch. When I came home that evening I expressed my frustration to my mom. She showed concern and mentioned that my face looked swollen. As the weeks passed I noticed simple tasks, such as brushing the back of my hair, shaving my legs, putting on my socks and shoes, and bending down to get my school supplies out of my locker, became difficult. I didn’t have enough strength in my legs to climb the bus steps or walk a long distance without feeling a burning ache. What worried me the most was that I couldn’t fold my hands to pray. These troubles happened over a span of two months.

I did not tell my parents that I was struggling to do these things because I was unsure of what was happening. But my mom noticed some things that I hadn’t at the time, such as how my face and joints looked swollen. When I was taken to my pediatrician in November, he too was concerned after examining me and noticing that he couldn’t bend my arm to take my blood pressure and that my body was swollen and puffy. With his help an appointment was scheduled for me to see a Rheumatology Specialist the first of the year. My mom and dad decided to take me to the Children’s Hospital emergency room in Pittsburgh after I started having troubles swallowing my food.

Within an hour of being in the emergency room, I was diagnosed with Juvenile Dermatomyositis (JDM), Linear Localized Scleroderma, and Rheumatoid Arthritis in both wrists. One of the tests that was done to diagnose me was an MRI. The MRI was painful for me because I couldn’t keep my legs straight without them burning to get clear and accurate pictures—and I was so hot I felt like I was suffocating. But through the MRI, getting blood drawn, and receiving an IVIG infusion through the day, I knew God was with me. I was in pain and cried a lot, but I felt a sense of peace and comfort.

The MRI results showed that all of my muscle groups were inflamed. Because of this, I continued to need to have IVIG infusions, which made me sweaty and have to take frequent trips to the restroom. My mom had told me that our pastor might come and see me. I remember looking at her with confidence and said, *“He will.”* Later that week both the pastor and his wife came to see me. I was embarrassed over my messy hair and puffy face, but their kindness and laughter put me at ease.

I stayed at the hospital for a week before they said I was well enough to go home. I wasn’t allowed to go to school for a couple of months so that my body would have time to rest and my autoimmune system would have time to adjust after being weakened by the different medications. I had to go to physical therapy three times a week and go



THE BEACON

By Michaela Facemire
Lost Creek, WV
SDB Church



back up to the Pittsburgh hospital for IVIG Infusions every month for a year—which made me feel nauseous and have migraines. Many days were really rough and I struggled to understand why God was letting this happen to me. I couldn't climb up my school steps, write fast, or participate in gym like everyone else. Instead I had to use the elevator, use a book bag with wheels, and have other accommodations made to fit my needs.

Around this time I watched the movie *Soul Surfer*, which was given to me as a gift. I don't know what it feels like to have my arm bitten off by a shark—but I do understand the struggle of changing how a person goes about doing simple day-to-day tasks. I was inspired by this movie to trust that God will always be with me. After seeing how the nurses took care of me and other patients, I was encouraged to work on becoming a nurse and help others who are sick. Because of what I have gone through I can relate and have empathy for those who have health problems. I believe God has given me this gift to spread His word and love to others.

I am now a junior in high school and my autoimmune disorders have been in remission for three years! God continues to help me cope when I have to do some things at a slower pace than others. When you make plans for today or tomorrow remember God knows the way. SR



Come to JERSEY OAKS CAMP

If you have completed grades 8-12 this year, you are invited to attend Jersey Oaks Senior Camp near Shiloh, NJ. Senior Camp begins at 4:00 pm on Sunday, July 21, and ends on Sunday, July 28. We will provide transportation from the Philadelphia International Airport to Camp and, on July 28, from Camp to Conference in Lancaster, PA. The cost for the camp is \$130, which covers all expenses for the week.

Please visit www.shilohsdb.org for more information and forms.

Register by June 22 to avoid late fees.

You can also contact Debbie Bond @ 856 498-9710 (call or text) or email at wdbond@rocketmail.com.

Hope you can join us for an exciting week of worship, study, games, swimming, and other fun activities. See you there! SR



“I’ll Go the Distance”

Music is a really powerful language. Sometimes we come across songs that aren’t necessarily qualified as “Christian” but personally move us in a spiritual way and, in a sense, a feeling of being closer to God. Some songs make us feel moved so we relate to what’s said and it helps us focus and clarify what God is doing in our lives. I think it’s good to find different ways, whether big or small, that God speaks to us.

The other day when doing homework, an acoustic version of the song “I’ll Go the Distance” from the Disney movie “Hercules” came on and it just brought to me this warm feeling—like a hug from God. Lately I have been having trouble knowing my place, where I belong, or where God wants me to be. Sometimes I feel like there are more bumps in my life than smooth. I constantly wonder if I’m in the right place and if I’ve made the right choices. And I’ll admit that sometimes I question why God has me go through the things He has me go through.

The song “I’ll Go the Distance” represents to me a story and a feeling. It represents the journey of wandering around, knowing there’s this beautiful end goal—but there’s going to be trouble finding it and it won’t be easy. It has so much meaning. My favorite word is “strength.” God is my strength. For a few years I’ve dealt with anxiety and depression—it is strength that gets me through it all. God gives me the strength to wake up in the morning, get out of bed, get through the day, and to just keep living. Along with this, running has been a way I’ve always coped. I love to run and just clear my mind and release all my thoughts to God.

I think that “I’ll Go the Distance” can be a very moving, spiritual song if you really listen to the words and slow it down. Your story may not be the same as mine, and it may not have the same meaning to you as it does to me. I decided to break down some of the lines in the song to bring some support to the lyrics.

“I have often dreamed Of a far off place

Isaiah 30:18—Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.

Where a great warm welcome Will be waiting for me

John 14:2-3 (NIV)—My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Where the crowds will cheer

Zephaniah 3:17—The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

When they see my face And a voice keeps saying

Isaiah 43:2—When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.

This is where I’m meant to be

Jeremiah 29:11—“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

I will find my way

Psalms 119:105—Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

I can go the distance

Micah 6:8—He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

***I'll be there someday
If I can be strong***

Philippians 4:13—I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

I know every mile

Isaiah 41:10—So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

***Will be worth my while
I would go most anywhere***

Deuteronomy 31:8—It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

To feel like I belong

Colossians 1:16—For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

***I am on my way
I can go the distance***

Psalms 23:4—Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

I don't care how far

Matthew 6:33—But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Somehow I'll be strong

Psalms 46:1—God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

***I know every mile
Will be worth my while***

Genesis 29:20—So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

***I would go most anywhere
to find where I belong
I will beat the odds***

Romans 8:37-39—No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I can go the distance

Psalms 91:11—For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

I will face the world

2 Peter 3:9—The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Fearless, proud, and strong

Romans 15:13—May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I will please the gods

1 Timothy 2:3-4—This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

***I can go the distance
Till I find the Hero's welcome***

John 3:16—For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Right where I belong"

Romans 5:5—And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Always remember how strong God's love is and that it will never abandon you. God created you and you belong to Him. The journey will be long but it will be worth every mile. ^[SR]

Reprinted from the Sabbath Recorder, July/August 2018

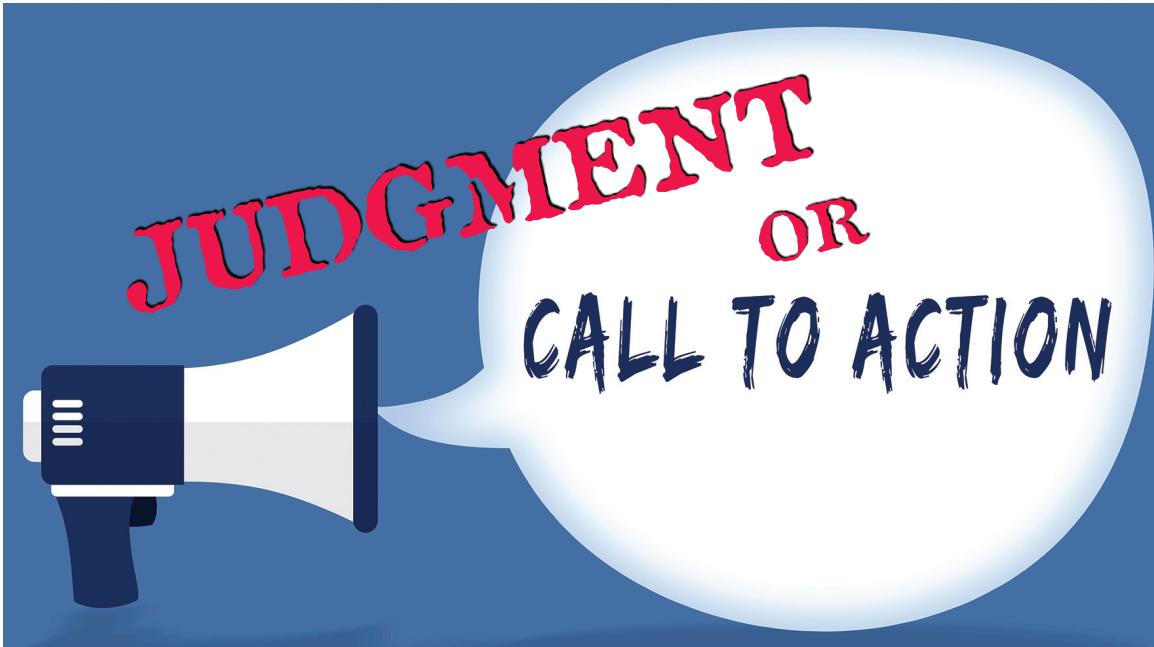
We want to know!

**HOW DOES YOUR CHURCH
DO OUTREACH?**

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The past month or two have been a struggle for the midwest. In Nebraska this spring, a record amount of snowfall turned our serene valleys and plains into flooded heartache. Whole communities and towns were underwater and/or cut off from outside aid due to flooding or severe infrastructure deterioration. Livelihoods, passed down through generations, ruined with little hope of regaining what was lost. Stories of people (in some cases children) trapped in isolated homes while flood waters rose and conditions made rescue impossible. Billions of dollars in damage—and the list goes on littered with heartbreaking stories.

When disaster strikes, as Christians, we're accustomed to seeing it as God's judgment on a place or people. And why not? After all, the Bible is littered with stories of God's judgment handed down through destruction on places like Sodom and Gomorrah, Egypt at the time of Moses, and Ananias and Sapphira—to name a few. At one point, relatively early in the history of the world, God is completely fed up with His human creation because "every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time." So God sends a flood to decimate His creation because He regretted He made them (Genesis 6)—thus begins the story of Noah's Ark. Revelation also tells us destruction is coming to this world again in the form of God's final judgment.

I'm not qualified to make a pronouncement about whether or not we are living in the end of days and if the floods and other disasters are judgment on society. Scholars I respect differ in their opinions on the subject—and while the conversation is valuable, sometimes we get so caught up

in the idea that God is pronouncing His judgment on the world that we forget that we are not passive onlookers here, nor are we called to be.

Despite the penchant of the human heart toward wickedness, Jesus came to redeem us and if we are going to call ourselves Christians then by definition we need to emulate Christ. He did not stand in the corner seeing bad things that were happening in the world and call them out as judgments, He went to the suffering and helped them and drew them closer to God. He didn't ignore their sin but worked to help people turn away from their wickedness.

What if, instead of only viewing disaster as a judgment from on high, we viewed it as a blatant call to action? It is easy to miss much of the suffering occurring around us on a daily basis, but a disaster is difficult to miss. What if a disaster is God giving us an opportunity as Christians to get off our derrieres and be involved in our communities? What if these disasters are to remind us there is hope?

In the days and weeks after the extensive flooding here in Nebraska, there has been heartache, but there is hope as well: vehicles laden with supplies for flood victims showing up at shelters; pilots offering their services to assist in getting aid to places made unreachable by any other means; truckloads of hay being driven to Nebraska farmers and ranchers in need from all across the nation. None of this can completely erase the devastation, but it does offer hope.

Christians are in a position to offer a lasting hope to the world. Natural disasters highlight the need for that hope. Let this upheaval be a call to motion, to not only be active in times of disaster but also in times of relative calm, to keep the momentum going. If you need ideas for how to start moving in your community, the focus of the Women's Society page this year is to bring you ideas for action in your community. Regardless of the status of the times, Christians are called to action. So act! [SR](#)



Women's
Society

By Katrina Goodrich

PEOPLE GET READY

Here are some more things happening at Conference this year...

Since we are in Lancaster, PA, where **Sight and Sound** is, our crack Host Committee has secured preliminary tickets for those who want to secure a seat at this amazing spectacle of Godly theater. If you have never experienced a **Sight and Sound** show, I would recommend this as an unbelievable experience you will never forget. It is an amazing musical experience, with world class actors/musicians, in the largest theater I have ever seen. It has to be large—because I can just about guarantee you will experience the wise men on the road to Bethlehem coming down the aisles right beside your seat on live camels! I am also sure there will be live animals at the manger scene and I would guess you will see Jesus enter the theater twice on a donkey: first, in the tummy of Mary on the way to Bethlehem; and second, on the road into Jerusalem with the palms waving and shawls thrown on the floor of the aisles as He comes right beside you in the procession of children crying, *“Hosanna, blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord.”* The Bible comes to life in this glorious theater and you get to be there praising God with them. Unbelievable and so moving. There will be transportation to and from the theater from the campus—so it will be a wonderful afternoon.

If you choose not to do this, Lancaster is in the heart of Amish country and you will have an afternoon to explore it on your own. There are amazing restaurants and buggy rides by Amish drivers around the area where you can visit Amish farms, ask questions of your gracious drivers, and possibly see the largest dairy cows this girl has ever seen. I am not exactly a city girl, so I have seen a cow or two in my day, but not ones whose back side is about the height of my 6’2” husband! I had to chuckle about the accommodations of these small herds. Of course the Amish do not use electricity or drive motor vehicles—thus the sweltering summer heat can get a bit much in their homes and fields. But there are huge fans running in the barn to keep the flies from pestering these cows and to keep them cool—where all they do is eat, drink, stand around doing nothing, and live in relative opulence, while their owner works sunup to sundown to provide for their needs and the needs of his family. The crafts of these amazing people also impressed me; so of course I had to bring home a wooden Amish candy dispenser that my grandchildren adore, plus an amazing wooden creche of many pieces that all came in a cute little wooden box. So there are many ways to enjoy a different culture and to enjoy a world class Christian experience in the **Sight and Sound** theater.

Back at Conference, one of the experiences in worship we will have is choreographed worship dancers, of many ages, coming down the aisles. Julia Coleman, from Shiloh, NJ, is leading this with teams from different churches participating. (I am hoping my Ugandan granddaughters and my eldest granddaughter, who all have some years of dance training, will be part of this). I believe a team from Washington, D.C., will be dancing, and hopefully, one from Miami also. There will be women, kids and hopefully some men, in this troupe. If you have contemporary dance experience and would like to be a part of this, and it is something you have dreamed of, contact me by email at grandmamack@comcast.net and I will forward your info to Julia who will contact you.

I hope to see you in Lancaster, PA, July 28-August 3 this summer.
PEOPLE GET READY!



By Jane Mackintosh
Conference President



Chronic Pain

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reported that 50 million Americans suffer from chronic pain. An additional 20 million experience severe pain that limits their normal movement and activities.

All of us experience pain at some time in our lives. For most, the pain lingers for a short while and then is gone and forgotten. Others suffer from pain that is ongoing and leads nowhere. Labor pain results in a baby; exercise pain leads to fitness and health. Chronic pain has no end goal; sufferers struggle to see God at work behind the endless pain.

Chronic suffering is like white noise, always on in the background of your life. Many times it is invisible and those who suffer do so silently. Chronic pain hurts, not just because of the physical sensations, but because of other things that tag along: insomnia, depression, anxiety, social isolation, and misinterpretations on the part of others. These problems are difficult to communicate.

Sufferers wonder about calling their pain “chronic.” If they do are they giving up on the possibility of getting better? Should they keep asking for prayer over and over for the same thing? Will they be one of those people whose names show up regularly in the church bulletin among the sick and suffering? Most of all they want to live a normal life.

In addition to the physical or mental pain, chronic pain takes a toll on relationships and on a person’s sense of self. There may also be deep spiritual pain. Where is God when we don’t experience healing? Has He abandoned us? Has the church forgotten us?

One difficulty with chronic pain is that other people instinctively want to offer solutions even when the person isn’t asking for them. They don’t want to just listen and really hear the story with no agenda beyond being an attentive listener and practicing the ministry of presence. False ideas about chronic pain interfere with people’s ability to listen gracefully. These include:

- **ALL PAIN IS FIXABLE**—You just need to keep looking for a cure. The fact is that chronic pain is often not curable. The cause may be known but the treatment may cause new problems. Insisting that there has to be a reason and asking questions such as: “Are you harboring unforgiveness?” or “What is God punishing you for?” are certainly not helpful.
- **TRADITIONAL MEDICINE AND DOCTORS ARE JUST INTERESTED IN YOUR MONEY**—What you really need is this diet, supplements, acupuncture, chiropractic or other forms of alternative medicine. These may indeed be helpful but the person who is suffering is the expert on what they have tried and what works.
- **I DON’T BELIEVE IN TAKING MEDICATIONS**—they are dangerous. This makes the person feel as if their treatment choices are unorthodox, a matter of wrong beliefs. Often they are only able to function because of medications prescribed.
- **DEPENDENCE AND LIMITATIONS ARE PROBLEMS**—It is best to overcome them and be independent. The Bible reminds us that we all are dependent on God’s provision and that we flourish best when we help each other. For many with chronic pain, learning to accept and accommodate their dependence (on others for help, on assistive devices, on medications) and limitations is a necessary step in crafting fulfilling lives in spite of the pain.

The Bible has a lot to say about pain and weakness, and therefore a lot to say to those who are in pain. There is power in weakness. Embracing our God-given interdependence and human limitations helps us discover the abundant life God intends for us. Those in chronic pain need to be supported for the hard work they do to live satisfying lives with pain. They need the continued help and support of family, friends, and the church. They need to be accepted, not as a person who is ill, but as a child of God. A future article will talk about specific ways this can be done.

—Adapted from *Church Health Reader*, winter 2019

SEEKING AN ASSISTANT PASTOR

Shepherd's Fold is looking for two Assistant Pastors. Our church is passionate and committed to training up generations of leaders. We are seeking anyone who is considering and believes they are called to Pastoral Ministry and/or Church Planting. The ideal candidate has a familiarity with social media and technology. Ability to play an instrument and lead worship is a plus!

Responsibilities

The Assistant/Associate Pastor is responsible to assist the Senior Pastor with ministerial and support needs as they arise. The Assistant/Associate, like the Pastor, is not responsible for doing all the work of ministry in the church, but for seeing it is done and done properly. The Assistant/Associate Pastor may be assigned specific tasks to perform or areas of ministry to administrate, like religious education, or on-going age group ministry of a church like Youth or Recreation.

Duties

- Run Social Media Ministry (Creating Content, Answering Questions, and Community Outreach)
- Serve as the point person between Shepherd's Fold and the Good News SDB church plant in NC (This may require travel to NC to preach, teach, and encourage)
- Preach on a regular basis
- Serve as the Sabbath School Superintendent
- Coordinate coverage for Sabbath School teaching
- Select Sabbath School curriculum
- May be assigned a specific ministry target group to oversee
- In absence of Pastor/Interim Pastor, receive his ministerial phone calls, lead staff meetings, oversee and lead worship services, and other ministerial duties
- May be assigned to oversee all ministry counseling needs from church membership and requests from the community
- Pray with church members and guests who express difficulties in their life
- Teach regular Bible study classes
- May be asked to visit nursing care facilities and home-bound individuals/age group specific members
- Conduct weddings and funerals for church members as requested
- Visit grieving church members as requested
- Represent the Senior Pastor at committee and ministry team meetings as requested
- Cooperate with all staff to promote the entire ministry plan of the church
- Serve as an effective liaison to church committees and team ministry efforts
- Maintain a continued growth of personal calling and walk with the Lord through Bible study and prayer
- Maintain personal priorities with home and family as the spiritual leader
- Develop and exercise personal evangelism within and outside the church
- Give graciously to the church through tithes and offerings
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Senior Pastor

If you are interested in this position or know of someone who should be considered, please contact Pastor Shay Rankhorn for more details at PastorShay@hotmail.com.

OBITUARY

ROBINSON—John W. Robinson, 89, of Middle Island Road, Middlebourne, WV, departed this life Saturday, March 2, 2019, in Ohio Valley Medical Center, Wheeling, WV. He was born December 5, 1929, in Salem, WV, the son of the late Haymond F. and Elsie M. Brissey Robinson.

John was a retired employee of Monongahela Power Company. He was a member of the Middle Island Seventh Day Baptist Church, New Milton, WV.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his beloved wife Alice F. Still Robinson; four sisters: Glenna Wilson, Berta Duncan, Edith Allen, and Ethel Clevenger; and a son-in-law, Paul Glover.

John is survived by a son, David (LeeAnna) Robinson, Rock Lake, WV; three daughters: Clara Glover, Middlebourne, WV, Roberta (Rick) Ash, Salem, WV, Emily Robinson, Middlebourne, WV; grandchildren: Bree (Clifton) Lough, Brendan (Angie) Negie, Bryce (Jennifer) Negie, Adrienne (Derek) Dawson, Justin (Kristyn) Ash, Nathan Robinson, Annaleise (Michael) Porta, and Tyler Ash; great-grandchildren: Eudora, Cora Mae, Sadie, Ford, Bryoni, Kinley, Ryleigh, Ellie, Cohen, Aubrey, Powers, and Ryker.

Services were held on Monday, March 4, 2019, at Furbee Funeral Home, Middlebourne, WV, with Pastor LeRoy Burdick officiating. Interment was in the Masonic Cemetery, West Union, WV.

You're Invited

Please join us

to honor and celebrate

Pastor Don Chroniger's

30 years of service

at the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, Wj

June 15, 2019

4:00 pm

Dinner served at 5:00 pm

Program to follow

For more information contact:

Pastoral Relations Committee

Bill Probasco

wjprobasco@comcast.net

OBITUARIES

PROBASCO—Owen Harris Probasco, of Shiloh, NJ, died quietly at home on April 7, 2019, after a long battle with ALS, surrounded by his wife and children. He was 88 years old.

Owen was born at home in Greenwich, NJ, on February 4, 1931, to the late John Wayland Probasco and Anna Matilda (nee Munck) Probasco. He graduated from Bridgeton High School with the Class of 1949 and from Salem College in Salem, WV, in the Class of 1953 with a BS in Mathematics.

Owen married his childhood sweetheart, Ruth Ayars, on March 29, 1953. They had four children, one foster child, 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He was a lifelong member of the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, serving as Deacon, Moderator and Sabbath School teacher. For many years he sang in the church choir, with numerous quartets, and shared solos for weddings, funerals and other special occasions.

He was a member of the Seventh Day Baptist Denominational Memorial Fund Trustees for almost 40 years, serving as President for 30 of those years. Owen was also Denominational Conference President in 1997 with the theme *"Tuned in to God, Turned on by the Spirit and Triumphant in Christ."*

Owen served over 20 years on the Hopewell School and Cumberland Regional School Boards, several as President.

He worked at I.E. DuPont from May 1953 until 1993, except for his tour with the Army from September 1953 to 1955. After retiring from 40 years with I.E. DuPont Company, he spent his winters in Florida where he was an Associate Member of the Daytona Seventh Day Baptist Church.

He was an avid bowler, golfer and tennis player. He enjoyed many evenings of pinochle with family and friends, occasionally letting others win. He was well known for his singing, poetry and wit.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years and their four children: Ron and Debbie (Garris) Probasco, of Mt. Juliet, TN; Jim and Rosemary (Minklei) Probasco of Tiverton, RI; Cindy and Ron DuBois of Shiloh; and Bill and Valerie (Blair) Probasco of Shiloh, and one foster-child, Worth and Sue Wilson of Cle Elum, WA; 11 grandchildren: Jennifer (Chermie), John (Jennifer), Scotty, LiErin (Adrian), Andrew, Lauren (Kyle), Ariel, Kelsey, Cory (Aditi), Holly, and Liam; and six great-grandchildren: Greyson, Hayden, Morgan, Audrey, Maverick and Dashiell. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by three brothers, John, Robert, and Donald Probasco and one sister, Marion Ferguson.

A memorial service was held at the Seventh Day Baptist Church of Shiloh, 116 East Avenue, Shiloh, on Saturday April 13.

MATTISON—On Sunday, February 24, 2019, the Holy Spirit wrapped His arms around Phyllis R. Mattison, who had contracted pneumonia, and softly carried her to her eternal home.

Born to Clifford Truman and Edna (Norton) Burdick on the family dairy farm in Andover, NY, on Easter Sunday, April 20, 1930, Phyllis' life was centered primarily in Allegany County for the remaining 88 years of her earthly life.

Phyllis attended a one-room schoolhouse near the family home until entering Andover Central School after 6th grade. There she excelled in music. During her youth she was active in Junior Grange, 4-H, and Dairymen's League. Phyllis showed cattle at the Allegany County Fair and was proud of her Victory Garden. One of her 4-H projects stands today as a grove of evergreens she planted on the farm.

Phyllis graduated from SUNY at Fredonia, NY, in 1952 with a B.A. in Music Education, and later accumulated over 70 graduate hours. She began her teaching career at Rushford Central School, and through the years taught in Whitesville, Wellsville, Alfred-Almond, and Richburg Central Schools. She loved her school children, especially those she felt were most vulnerable. She retired in 1985.

Phyllis was an accomplished organist and pianist, beginning her career at age ten at the Andover Seventh Day Baptist Church, a position she held until its close in 1956. She transferred her membership to the Alfred Station SDB Church where she remained a lifelong member. She was active as organist and choir member, Sabbath School Superintendent and other positions. After retirement, she enjoyed her involvement with the Chenunda Creek Mennonite Fellowship in Independence.

On August 1, 1953, Phyllis married L. Reid Mattison of Greenwood at her home in Andover. They lived in Farmersville Station, Rochester, NY; Ft. Collins, CO; TipTop, Andover, Wellsville, and Whitesville, NY. During those years she enjoyed sewing and decorating. Phyllis was very involved in her community and joined many singing groups and was a long-time member of the Jones Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

Phyllis loved her Savior Jesus Christ and was a devoted daughter and loved her husband of 65 years. She is survived by her husband, L. Reid Mattison; and children: Yvonne Bee of Palmyra, NY; and Christian R. (Rebecca) Mattison of Whitesville, NY; her four grandchildren: Maureen L. Wilsey, Whitesville; Rebekah (Caleb) Schauer, Papillion, NE; Kaitlin (Nicholas) Lee, Guthrie, OK; and Evan R., Whitesville; five great-grandchildren: Dayton, Lila, and Dawson Schauer; Lorelei and Addelyn Lee.

Phyllis was predeceased by her parents and by her brother, Carrol T. Burdick; her sisters: Lorraine Burdick, Jane Sisson; and her son-in-law, Rev. Dr. Ernest K. Bee, Jr.

The funeral service was held on March 9, 2019, officiated by Rev. Stephen Richard at the 1st Presbyterian Church on Andover, NY. Interment was at the Alfred Rural Cemetery. Donations in Memory of Phyllis may be made to Hospice and Home Care, 194 N. Main St., Wellsville, NY 14895 or to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38148-0142.



"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion?
Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover
your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest.
Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it.
Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay
anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company
with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."



COMING THIS SUMMER!!

Seventh Day Baptist General Conference
July 28 – August 3, 2019

Lancaster Bible College
Lancaster, PA

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORMS
INSIDE ON PAGES 13-16**